

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of determining an identity of at least each card in card hands at a casino table card game comprising:

automatically reading the rank and suit of each card that leaves a dealing shoe;
dealing hands according to ~~[[the]]~~ rules of play of ~~[[a]]~~ the casino table card game with at least one hand being dealt to a player;

~~providing a signal of the completion of hands or first cards having been dealt to all players present at the table;~~

dealing additional cards to the hands according to the rules of the casino table card game;

providing a signal of at least one of a completion of a hand, a completion of initial hands or completion of first cards having been dealt to all players present at the table by manual activation of a signal by a dealer or automatic signaling resulting from sensing of a card at a signal position;

removing exhausted hands from the table and placing the exhausted hands in a discard rack;

reading each card placed in the discard rack from the exhausted hands to determine rank and suit of each card placed in the discard rack; and

reconciling the cards placed in the discard rack with the cards that left the dealing shoe.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein in addition to the at least one hand being dealt to ~~[[a]]~~ the player, a hand is dealt to a dealer or to a common card area, and automatic signaling results from sensing of a card at a signal position comprising the common card area or a position where dealer's cards are placed.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 2 wherein ~~[[a]]~~ the first card, an initial card or ~~[[a]]~~ the complete hand is dealt to ~~[[a]]~~ the dealer and the signal of the completion of hands ~~or first cards having been dealt to all players~~ comprises signaling that a first card, the initial hand or complete hand has been provided to ~~[[a]]~~ the dealer.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 2 wherein ~~[[a]]~~ the signal is provided when a) a first dealer card, the initial hand or dealer's complete hand is received or b) at least a common card is received in the common card area ~~[[location]]~~.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 4 wherein ~~[[a]]~~ the signal is provided that ~~[[a]]~~ the first dealer's card or the dealer's initial ~~complete~~ hand has been provided to the dealer.

6. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein a number of active player positions is determined by a count of a number of cards that leave the dealing shoe before a first dealer card, dealer initial ~~complete~~ hand, a first common card or complete set of common cards is signaled.

7. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 4 wherein a number of active player positions is determined by a count of a number of cards that leave the dealing shoe before the first dealer card or first common card is signaled.

8. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 5 wherein a number of active player positions is determined by a count of a number of cards that leave the dealing shoe before the first dealer card or first common card is signaled.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 4 wherein complete hands of a specific number of cards are sequentially dealt to players and a determined number of active player positions is determined by a count of ~~[[the]]~~ an initial number of cards dealt divided by the initial number of cards per hand before the signal of the presence of at least one card in the dealers hand or ~~[[the]]~~ common ~~[[card(s)]]~~ cards is made.

10. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 5 wherein complete hands of a specific number of cards are sequentially dealt to players and a number of active player positions is determined by a count of the number of cards dealt divided by the number of cards before the signal of the presence of at least one card in the dealers hand or the common card(s) is made.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 6 wherein the casino table card game is blackjack and cards are dealt to each player position and a dealer position one at a time.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 4 wherein the casino table card game is blackjack and cards are dealt to each player position and a dealer position one at a time.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 5 wherein the casino table card game is blackjack and cards are dealt to each player position and a dealer position one at a time.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 9 wherein the casino table card game is blackjack and cards are dealt to each player position and a dealer position one at a time.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 4 wherein a signal of the presence of a dealer's initial hand is used to determine a number ~~[[for all]]~~ of active player positions.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 11 wherein a signal of the presence of a dealer's initial hand is used to determine a number ~~[[for all]]~~ of active player positions.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 12 wherein a signal of the presence of a dealer's initial hand is used to determine a number ~~[[for all]]~~ of active player positions.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 6 wherein all active player positions are determined and after determination of all active player positions, initial hands for each player position are determined as known hands.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 11 wherein all active player positions are determined and after determination of all active player positions, initial hands for each player position are determined as known hands.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein exhausted hands placed in the discard rack ~~[[tray]]~~ are reconciled with ~~[[known]]~~ hands that have automatically had their rank and suit read as each card left the dealing shoe; and then were dealt as hands according to the rules of play and based at least on knowledge of a set of first two cards received in a hand placed in the discard rack ~~[[tray]]~~.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 11 wherein exhausted hands placed in the discard rack ~~[[tray]]~~ are reconciled with ~~[[known]]~~ hands that have automatically had their rank and suit read as each card left the dealing shoe; and then were dealt as hands according to the rules of play and based at least on knowledge of a set of first two cards received in a hand placed in the discard rack ~~[[tray]]~~.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 12 wherein exhausted hands placed in the discard rack ~~[[tray]]~~ are reconciled with ~~[[known]]~~ hands that have automatically had their rank and suit read as each card left the dealing shoe; and then were dealt as hands according to the rules of play and based at least on knowledge of a set of first two cards received in a hand placed in the discard rack ~~[[tray]]~~.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 13 wherein hands placed in the discard rack ~~[[tray]]~~ are reconciled with known hands based at least on knowledge of a set of first two cards received in a hand placed in the discard rack ~~[[tray]]~~.

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system for determination of at least individual hands of cards in a casino table card game comprising:

a card delivery device that reads the rank and suit of cards ~~each card in the card delivery device before each card is~~ delivered to a hand position, and sends first signals of the suit and rank of each card to a processor,

the card delivery device in combination with a card sensor automatically providing a signal to the processor that dealing of a partial hand has been completed;

a card discard tray that reads the rank and suit of each card ~~[[in]]~~ delivered to the card discard tray, and sends second signals of the suit and rank of each card in the card discard tray to ~~[[a]]~~ the processor, and

~~[[a]]~~ the processor ~~[[that receives]]~~ receiving signals from the delivery device and the discard tray and ~~[[identifies]]~~ identifying the at least individual hands that were played in the casino table card game based on comparison of the first and second signals.

25. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 24 communicatively associated with a blackjack card table.

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 25 wherein a signaling element is communicatively associated with the system to automatically indicate at least one of when a dealer has received a first card or a dealer has received two cards, or a dealer has received all cards in a dealer hand.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 24 wherein a signaling element is communicatively associated with the system to indicate at least one of when a dealer has received a first card or a dealer has received two cards and wherein the signaling element comprises a manually activated element.

28. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 26 wherein the signaling element comprises a sensor sensing dealer card(s).

29. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 24 wherein hands of each player position are identified by an anchor reference comprising the identity of two cards first received at the player position.

30. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 25 wherein hands of each player position are identified by an anchor reference comprising the identity of two cards first received at the player position.

31. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 26 wherein hands of each player position are identified by an anchor reference comprising the identity of two cards first received at the player position.

32. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 24 wherein completion of dealing cards to players and a possibility of providing additional cards to a dealer is identified by a dealer's signal.

33. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 32 wherein the dealer's signal is provided by clearing a view from a sensor.

34. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 32 wherein the dealer's signal is provided by manual activation of a dealer's signaling element.

35. (NEW) The method of claim 4 wherein a first number of complete hands of a specific number of cards are sequentially dealt to players and a determined number of active player positions is determined by a count of a second number of cards dealt divided by an actual number of cards dealt before the signal of the presence of at least one card in the dealers hand or the common cards is made.

36. (NEW) The method of claim 1 wherein exhausted hands placed in the discard rack are reconciled with hands that have automatically had their rank and suit read as each card left the dealing shoe; and then were dealt as hands according to the rules of play and based at least on knowledge of a set of first two cards received in a hand placed in the discard rack.

37. (NEW) The method of claim 11 wherein exhausted hands placed in the discard rack are reconciled with hands that have automatically had their rank and suit read as each card left the dealing shoe; and then were dealt as hands according to the rules of play and based at least on knowledge of a set of first two cards received in a hand placed in the discard rack.